LINCOLN SENSE

Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors • Dr. Sol Taylor, President • 13515 Magnolia Blvd. • Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

SLCC is dedicated to the collecting and study of the LINCOLN CENT. Our journal, LINCOLN SENSE, is published six times a year. Annual membership is $15 and foreign mailing is $20. Life membership is available at $150.

March, 1999 Vol. XVII No. 5

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SLCC NEEDS: Used coin folders, used Wheat cents, old Red Books.

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Mail Bid Sale #95. Closing date March 29, 1999.
Reminder: There is no bidder's fee in SLCC mail bid sales. Submit your bids early. In cases of ties, the earliest bid wins.

Lot	Description
Long Beach Consignment	
1	1890 Indian, PCGS PR64RB, glowing reflective reds and rainbow colors. Sharp. Only 2,740 minted.
2	1909 VDB G6 and 1909 AU55BN
3	1911 MS64RB, sharp, might slab higher
4	1914 Fine, 1914S VG
5	1915 Elongated cent, "Old Ironsides" on reverse. XF.
6	1915D AU55, cleaned, lightly toning
7	1917 XF40, 1917D F15, 1917S F15
8	1919 XF45, 1919D VF15, and 1919S VF15
9	1931S Key date - VF25 nice even wear.
10	1934 MS65Rd, 1935 MS65Rd, 1935D MS66Rd
11	1955 Doubled Die ANACS AU55BN, RARE and popular. Similar to Lot 19 in MB#94 sold for $585.
12	1987S PCGS Pf69DCAM, highest grade
13	1989S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
14	1990S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
15	1992S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
16	1993S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
17	1994S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
18	1995S PCGS Pf69DCAM, ditto
19	1997 MS65Rd, 10% off-center, K11, full date
Minnesota Consignment	
20	1919P,D,S Matched trio of XF45s
21	1930 MS66Rd, gem
22	1934P&D Matched duo of MS65Rd
23	1935P,D,S Matched BU trio of MS65Rd
24	1936P,D,S ditto
25	1937P,D,S ditto
26	1938P,D,S ditto
27	1939P,D,S ditto
28	1940P,D,S ditto
29	1943P,D,S MS65
30	1946P,D,S Matched BU trio of MS65Rd

Lot description

31 1947P,D,S Matched trio of BU MS65Rd
32 1948P,D,S ditto
33 1949P,D,S ditto
34 1954P,D,S ditto (the 1954P is dull color)
35 1955P,D,S ditto
36 1942D RPM#4 MS66Rd
37 1942S RPM#11 MS65Rd
38 1960P small date MS65Rd
39 1997 15% off-center at K-7, MS65Rd, full date
40 1941-1958 full set of 51 BU coins in a tube. Avg MS65

Idaho Consignment

41 1902 Indian MS63RB, full details
42 1906 Indian MS63RB, full details
43 1909VDB MS66Rd
44 1909S Lincoln VF, Semi-key
45 1913 Glossy MS63BN, sharp
46 1914D Key date, Solid VG, full rims,
47 1919 MS64Rd, slight toning cherry red
48 1919S MS63, possibly cleaned RB
49 1926S Semi-key XF40
50 1927 MS65Rd, sharp
51 1928D MS64RB, sharp
52 1936 MS66Rd, gem
53 1937 MS65Rd, sharp
54 1938 ditto
55 1940 MS66Rd, golden gem blazer
56 1942S ditto
57 1970S small date Typ.II, MS65Rd
58 1998S Pf69DCAM (in a 2x2)

San Francisco Consignment

All these lots are rolls as described. Number of coin in parenthesi

59 1940S small s (50) BU choice
60 1944 MS65Rd (50)
61 1946S MS65Rd (49)
62 1952 MS65Rd (50)
63 1952S MS65Rd (50)
64 1954P _The best looking roll of 1954P we've seen in many years--worthy of a giant bid. Real MS65s. (50)
65 1954D MS65Rd (50)

Lot	description
66	1954S MS65Rd (50)
67	1955P MS65Rd (50)
68	1955P Poorman's doubled die MS65Rd (50)
69	1955D MS65Rd (50)
70	1955S MS65Rd (50)
71	1956 MS65Rd (50)
72	1956D MS65Rd (50)
73	1957D - shotgun roll, never opened, BU
74	1958P MS65Rd (50)
75	1958D MS65Rd (50)
76	1959P MS65Rd (50)
77	1959D MS65Rd (50)
78	1960P small date MS65Rd (50)
79	1961P&D MS65Rd (100)
80	1962P&D MS65Rd (100)
81	1963P&D, 1964D MS65Rd (150)
82	1965P MS65Rd (50)
83	1966P MS65Rd, some SMS included (50)
84	1967P MS65Rd, some SMS included (50)
85	1968P,D,S MS65Rd, (150)
86	1969D&S MS65Rd (100)
87	1970P MS65Rd (50)
88	Proofs65-66Red: 1957 (19), 1959 (24), 1962 (2) = (45)
89	Proofs65-66Red: 1960 lg (10), 1961 (9), 1962 (20), 1963 (11) =(50)

End of Mail Bid Sale #95. Mail your bids early. Please include your phone number on your bid sheet. Thank you.

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Last month some of you received your newsletter later than usual. We ran out of one cent stamps and couldn't buy any for a few days as the local post offices were caught short on Jan.10th and it took a few visits to round up the extra one centers. As usual, we try to mix our use of stamps to assure you get the older or more unusual issues on every mailing. Those who save and return used stamps to SLCC are doing a service for our youth. Thanks.

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Mail Bid Sale #94 Results

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
1	6.	11	20.	21	15.	31	nb	41	28.	51	20.
2	29.	12	2.	22	3.50	32	6.50	42	28.	52	15.
3	7.	13	38.	23	15.50	33	15.	43	12.	53	3.
4	11.	14	30.	24	nb	34	20.	44	12.50	54	10.
5	10.	15	65.	25	24.	35	14.	45	12.	55	1.50
6	6.	16	45.	26	101.	36	1.	46	7.	56	100.
7	5.	17	35.	27	37.	37	15.	47	7.	57	16.
8	7.	18	40.	28	71.	38	1.	48	12.		
9	2.	19	585.	29	nb	39	10.50	49	12.	nb = no bid	
10	3.50	20	11.	30	70.	40	10.50	50	16.		

There were 28 bidders, no late bids, and no tie bids.

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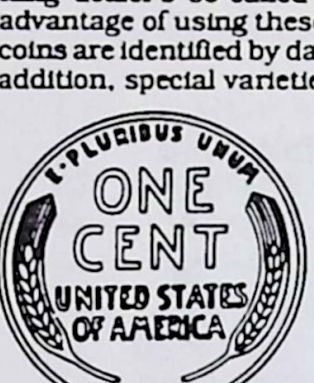
1943 Copper cent

Every now and then, someone claims to have found a 1943 copper cent. On March 1, 1999 a news report out of Idaho not only claimed that a man found a 1943 copper cent but lost it. That set off a flurry of news stories including TV coverage which deluged coin dealers across the country with calls from people claiming to have a rare 1943 copper cent. Not one has surfaced. Continental Coins of Van Nuys called SLCC to get more specific details on the 1943 census (14 genuine pieces known) and recent auction sales figures ($10,000-30,000 for the 1943 and $82,500 for the unique 1943D) because they were going to be on TV and wanted to have that information. They said they were getting over 400 calls a day on the coin (which no one had). Mid Valley Coins of Granada Hills said they were getting over 100 calls a day. No doubt every coin dealer across the USA was getting many calls too. Even though the TV story showed a copper 1943 cent and emphasized the date must be 1943 and the coin must be copper, people still dragged out their old ugly 1943 steel cents and thought they struck gold. Other people thought any wheat back cent was also of great value. "After all," said one old man, "my 1920 cent is much older than 1943 so it must be worth more".

Collecting Lincoln Cents - Anthony Vigliotta

(Continued from last issue...)

rolls. For the pre-1959 wheat ear variety, the best method is by either buying wheat roll bags or scanning dealer's so-called junk box collections. The advantage of using these plug boards is that all the coins are identified by date series and mintmarks. In addition, special varieties are also listed.



Reverse Wheat Eared Lincolns 1909-1958

Reverse Memorial Lincolns 1959 to present

For the beginning collector, the preferred data eference source on what to collect in the Lincoln ent series, especially die varieties, is the *Guide Book f U.S. Coins*, by R.S. Yeoman, better known as the Red Book." For the specialty collector in this date eries, the die variety reaches highly desirable colector status if it gets listed in the Red Book. Another deal publication for the more advanced collector of incoln cent date series is Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Numerous double ies and other die varieties are identified in the reen text and data is more extensive and definitive hen compared to the Red Book. For the date series 909 thru 1986, Breen goes from the boldface number 2052 thru 2322, which equates to 270 date/eries/varieties for the Lincoln cent. If we add the dditional date/series 1987l to 1992, it would total 88 date/mintmark/die varieties for the present incoln cent collection. Not quite as many as Bust alf dollars from 1807-1836 (453 varieties), but a ufficient quantity even for the most discriminating ie variety collector.

An interesting factor, even for the low budget ollector, is the affordable availability of the Lincoln ent date/mintmark series of coins. Actually, there re only two date/mintmark series (1909-S VDB and 914-D), that are above the affordable range of $100 the VF grade level. The other date series above the reshold levels are classified as mint errors, namely e 1922 plain date (no "D" mintmark) and the 1955 nd 1972 double die obverse Lincoln cents. Mint ror collecting of Lincoln cents is an entirely sepate category that will be addressed ter in this article.

The real challenge in collecting high ade Lincoln cents is obtaining ruby d to chocolate brown properly toned ins that will not later develop spotg and corrosion due to environental conditions or handling. Proper ndling and preservation of copper ins is almost as important as the quisition process, especially of the gher grade coins. Copper can be

Lincoln cents collection.

Although there are several excellent publicatio on specialty collecting of Lincoln cents, there isn any comprehensive numismatic publication th addresses the entire date/mintmark series, inclu ing those worthy of listing die varieties, double di and errors. Apparently, this is a problem with t majority of 20th century U.S. coin denominatio series. I am quite certain that an overall publicatio on Lincoln cents would greatly enhance th collectibility of the Lincoln cents series.

Lincoln Cent Double Dies

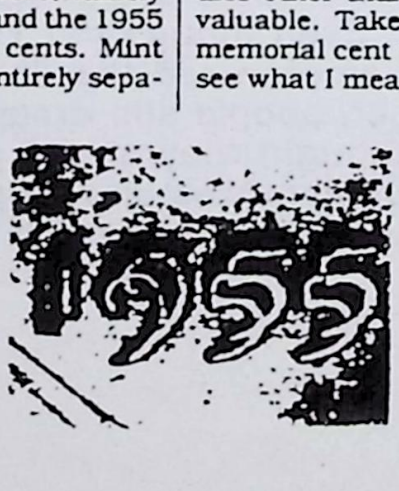
A specialty area of Lincoln cent collecting recei ing an enthusiastic following these days is th Lincoln cents double dies. Fostering this growth the outstanding publication by John Wexler, *Th Lincoln Cent Double Dies*, and his *Encyclopedia Double Dies, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2*. The comprehensiv ness of the text and the photos by Alan Herbert an John Wexler make these publications a must possess if collecting Lincoln cent double dies is you game. The introductory remarks by Wexler are s informative and appropriate to this article, that it listed verbatim, as follows.

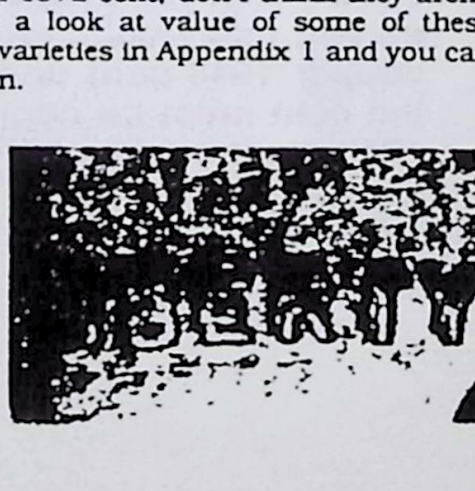
"The Lincoln cent is by far the most wide collected and most popular of the United State Coins. Among the Lincoln cents there are two double die varieties that share this tremendous popularity They are of course the famous 1955 and 1972 doub die cents.

Did you know, however, that there are over 20 different doubled die varieties on the Lincoln cen series in addition to those two.

There are many nice doubled die varieties in th Lincoln cent series that the average coin collecto has never heard of because they have never receive the publicity given to the 1955 and 1972 varieties Some of these relatively unknown varieties are ex tremely rare and are worth as much as, or more than the famous 1955 and 1972 varieties.

One of the nice things about these doubles die is the fact that since so few people knew about them at that time, many can be found by going through th coins in a dealer's stock, whether it be in his coi shop or at a local coin show. Many of the circulatio strike memorial cent varieties can still be found i your everyday change from circulation, and jus because they are Lincoln memorial cent double dies other than 1972 cent, don't think they aren valuable. Take a look at value of some of thes memorial cent varieties in Appendix 1 and you ca see what I mean.





4th Edition

The text is FINISHED! About 300 pages of text are being prepared to be shipped to the printers this week for typesetting. Then they will be returned for proof reading and final editing. If nothing else pops up to delay the process, it should go to press this month (March). Those who placed orders in 1998, we appreciate your patience--it will be rewarded. The text is up-to-date, enriched with lots of support materials, and eye-appealing. The final page count and format will be determined by the printer. Your contributions, support, and patience are sincerely appreciated.

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Membership Campaign

The membership roster has dropped in recent months due to several members moving and leaving no forwarding address, two members died, and a few have resigned. Publicity materials will be sent to the numismatic press on a regular basis to keep the membership growing.

New members:

R1276 Tracy S. Mundy VA (incorrectly reported as "Mooney" last time)
R1277 A.J. Tucker GA R1278 Tracy L. Witt TX
R1279 Richard Colston CA

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Auction Prices Set Records

In 1998 and so far in 1999, several auctions have set record prices for Lincoln Cents. A few examples include:

1909S VDB FUN '98 MS65Rd $2375
1909 Matte Proof67Rd (offered private sale at $30,000)
1909S VDB FUN '98 MS66Rd $3680
1911D FUN'98 MS66Rd $1725
1911S FUN '98 MS66Rd $1265
1913S FUN'98 MS65Rd $1150
1914S ANA'98 MS65Rd $6612

1914S FUN '98 MS66Rd $12,650
1914D ANA '98 MS64Rd $4082
1916S ANA '98 MS66Rd $3450
1917 Doubled die MS65Rd offered at $50,000 dealer ad
1919S FUN'98 MS65Rd $1582
For a complete listing of 1998 sales data see Chapter 5 in the 4th edition. FUN'98 - Heritage Sale at Florida United Numis. show Jan, 1998 and ANA '98 - American Numis. Assn auction Portland, Aug. 1998.

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MS65 1926S Sold

The finest known 1926S cent graded MS65Rd by NGC was sold at the FUN'98 show auction for $8395. This is the scarcest of the regular issued Lincolns in MS65--only one known in MS65Rd.

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MS65 1955 Doubled Die Sold

At the FUN'98 show a MS65Rd 1955/55 PCGS was sold for $19,550. This is a rare coin with only 12 others known in MS65Rd. At ANA '98 a 1955/55 graded MS64RB by NGC sold for $3450.

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1970S DDO 1-0-I Sells for Record price

One of only a handful of the rare 1970S 1-0-I was sold privately in 1997 for $10,000. It was MS65Rd. A second specimen ANACS MS64BN sold in 1997 for $6,000.

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1943 Copper Sells

New Hampshire Rare Coins reported a sale of a 1943 copper cent for $30,000 to a private collector in 1998.

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BU 1922P Reported Sold

The rare 1922P in MS65 was reportedly sold in 1998 for $85,000--if so, it is the highest price paid for a small cent.

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These double die Lincoln cents provide an excite-
nt to coin collecting that the average coin collec-
can no longer experience—the excitement of
ding scarce and valuable coins in circulation or
den in dealer's stock. I have purchased many
ables dies from dealers at the price of their regular
n when the coin was actually worth five, ten or
n one hundred times the regular coin price.
lecting doubled die Lincoln cents can be a lot of
. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have."
Truly an impressive insight in the potential asso-
ted with Lincoln double die cents.
The immediate question posed is how could so
ny Lincoln cent dies be doubled dies? Very few
lly appreciate the number of working dies that
e to be produced. For example, in 1972—the year
the doubled die—roughly three billion
933,255,000) Lincoln cents were produced at the
ladelphia Mint. In Breen's *Encyclopedia*, the Mint
reau gave an average life for business strike cents
1,000,000 for obverse dies. Simple math indicates
t 2,933 working dies would be required for this
nparatively low production run of 1972 compared
oday's requirements. Therefore, one can readily
preciate how some working dies could easily slip
actional position in the multiple strikes between
working hubs and working dies.
Getting proficient in detecting doubled dies is not
overnight task, but requires a great deal of
dying of Wexler's text and the numerous types of
abled dies. Wexler has classified doubled dies in
en different classifications, Class I - Class VII,
and his book describes the different die processes that produce these different classifications.

Wexler has also developed a listing number which identifies the date series/mintmark, obverse or reverse die and what class of variety it is. For example, the listing number 1972-D, 1 cent-101 tells us that we are talking about a 1972-D cent and that it is the #1 - obverse (0) die which is a Class 1 variety, (i.e. 101).

Quite an intriguing and complex science but worthy of the effort involved for a doubled die collecting specialist.

I have had numerous interesting discussions with my friend and fellow Central Florida Coin Club member, Tom Stott, who has become quite proficient in doubled die and repunched mintmarks (RPM). These are the comments and data Tom Scott provided me for this article, "Doubled dies and RPMs can still be found in bags, rolls and circulated coin sets today. I buy bags and rolls of wheat cents at 1-1/2 to 2 cents per coin. Over a three year period, I have found enough die varieties that I can put the excess wheat cents back into circulation for other collectors to find at no actual cost to me. A few of the interesting doubled dies I have found are: 1909 VDB (Wexler #1-0-III) Purchased for $4.75/sold for $55.00—AU condition; 1917 (Wexler #1-0-V) Purchased for ten cents/sold for $150.00—XF+; 1936 (Wexler #2-0-V) Purchased for two cents plus $12 for slabbing/sold for $125—AU, R-6; 1939 (Wexler #1-0-I) Purchased for two cents/sold for $110—ANACS 55; 1942-S (Wexler #2-0-IV) Purchased uncirculated

Continued next page...

Multiply Struck Memorial Cent

6384 Undated Multiply Struck Memorial Cent—MS 64 Red, ANACS. The planchet was struck four times before finally being dislodged from the dies. Quite a spectacular error.

This oddity was in the ANA sale August, 1996 and sold for $320.

oll for $145, found six rare 2-0-IV. Sold one ANACS-MS64 brown for $125 and four each MS64+ for 700."

Sure appears "thar's gold in them thar hills," ased on Tom's report to me. In addition to the bove, Tom has the following advice for readers nterested in the pursuit of doubled die Lincoln ents. "As with any numismatic endeavor, research s important. Get to know the market." Some sage dvice from Tom Stott is as follows:

• 1917 (1-0-V) Doubled dies are in very strong emand and worth much more than the 1955 double ie in the same condition.

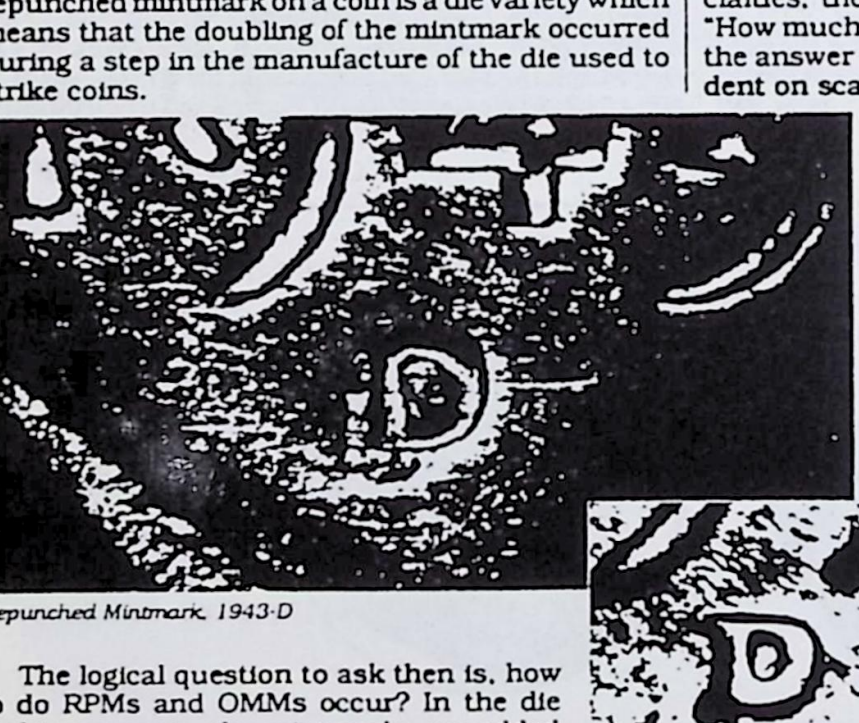
• All 1943 "steel" cent varieties are in strong emand and Uncs. command a high premium.

• There are many pitfalls in collecting die variet-s, especially for the beginner. Avoid cleaned or amaged coins. Common or minor (doubled dies) *vill not* bring published prices, while Choice AU-BU xamples of rare varieties will sell well above any rends or other published price list.

Apparently there still remains fruitful areas in irculating coins for the diligent researcher willing o devote time and energy in pursuit of the doubled ies.

Lincoln Cent RPMs and OMMs

Other areas of collecting are RPMs (repunched nintmarks) and OMMs (over mintmarks). A epunched mintmark on a coin is a die variety which neans that the doubling of the mintmark occurred uring a step in the manufacture of the die used to trike coins.



epunched Mintmark, 1943-D

The logical question to ask then is, how o do RPMs and OMMs occur? In the die naking process, the mintmarks are added o the nearly completed die as the final step n the working die production. The mintmark s added to the die with a handpunch and a nallet. There is no mechanical aid used in aligning r hammering the punch. It may sound like a crude, naccurate system, but that is the way it has always een done.

If, between blows of the mallet, the punch is ightly out of alignment, a double or multiple nintmark is created. The number of images visible vill depend on how many times the punch was noved and then rehammered. Arnold Margolis, a noted error collector and author, has pointed ou that during a visit to the Philadelphia Mint, where a dies are made and mintmarks added, he witnesse a mintmark being applied to a die with as many a 30 gentle taps of the mallet. The more blows of th mallet, the greater chance of creating a double multiple image to the mintmark.

There are two basic classifications of repunche mintmarks. When the same letter of the mintmark repunched over itself (D/D, S/S, CC/CC, etc.) it classified an RPM (repunched mintmark). When different letter is punched over the original impre sion (D/S, S/D, O/CC, etc.), then the term OM (over mintmark) is used.

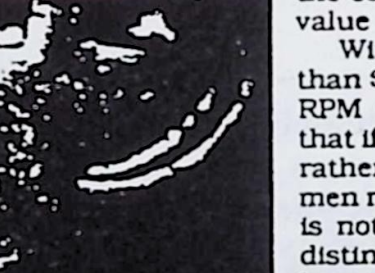
Fortunately for the RPM-OMM die collector, the is an excellent book available on the subject, T *RPM Book* by John A. Wexler and Tom Miller. Th not only lists the RPMs and OMMs for Lincoln cen but for all denominations. As one would read expect, a good portion of the book lists Lincoln ce RPMs and OMMs. The number of RPMs far exceed the OMMs, because the engraver would have change mintmark punches in the process of har mering it into the die. However, they do exist. F example, in the RPM book, there are approximate 490 Lincoln cent RPMs listed and 16 OMMs.

Quality and Clarity of DDs, RPMs and OMMs

Whenever the discussion turns to collecting sp cialties, the question is always the same, name "How much is it worth?" If the question is the sam the answer is also the same. RPM values are depe dent on scarcity of the die variety plus the grade the coin involved and the numisma value of the coin.

With coins of minimal value, say le than $1, the value is dependent on t RPM variety. General guidelines a that if the RPM on a lesser value coin rather strong and distinct, a BU spe men may be worth $2 to $5. If the RP is not strong or distinct and hard distinguish, then that same coin m bring about $1.

On the other hand, any coin valu at $25 or more and an ordinary streng RPM, the value would only increased about 20 pe cent($27.50 to $30). Howev if the RPM is strong, distin and readily visible the coi value may increase up double, or in this case an op mistic $50.



Over Mintmark D/S

There is no known analy cal method of measuring t quality or clarity of these ty varieties. The best measu ment is the visual acuity necessary to detect the varieties. The best quality variety (major) are tho visible to the naked eye. If you can see it witho magnification rest assured, you have a major D/ RPM or OMM. The generally accepted unwritten r is that if you can easily detect these varieties wit 10x magnification loupe, it is a quality or ma variety coin. Some collectors like to stretch the r to a 20x magnification, but in that realm and abo

a basically have a minor class of D/D, RPM or IM with only a minimal premium above face value the coin. Many specialists still collect these and oy them for the avocational aspects of collecting ieties.

Since collecting RPMs and OMMs is a fairly ent phenomena, valuation factors may be in their roductory stage. A review of the RPM book sub- ntiates that the majority of RPMs and OMMs ed are later date 20th century coins. Since the ocess of punching mintmarks has been the same past two centuries, it stands to reason there st be many more 19th century type coins with Ms and OMMs yet to be discovered.

As relates to late date (1980 to present) Lincoln nts, the numbers have been significantly reduced. a visit to the Mint by John Wexler in 1980, he was ormed that the mintmarks were now punched o the die with a single blow of the mallet, thereby nimizing the potential for RPMs.

In 1990-1991, business strike production of U.S. ns by the U.S. Mint, the mintmark letters were plied directly to the production hubs rather than ng hand-punched on each working dies. Thus RPM-OMM specialist of the future will depend on ns of the past to perpetuate his avocation.

ncoln Cent Error Collecting

An error coin is a coin which has been made properly and issued accidently as the result of ne malfunction or failure of operation in some ase of the minting process. The emphasis is on the cidental" or inadvertent production of incorrectly shaped or formed coins. There is a combination of events which must take place for a coin to be a collectible error coin.

All the prerequisites necessary for error collecting to be an enticing avocation are present, namely, error coins are readily available; they are affordable; numismatic literature is abundant and comprehensive, and there are support groups to encourage the collector. *Mint Errors and Varieties*, by Alan Herbert and *Error Coin Encyclopedia*, by Arnold Margolis are both outstanding publications on the subject. These two books will provide all you will ever need to know in numismatic error collecting. The outpouring of billions of coins each year in all denominations, and Lincoln cents especially, automatically assures that errors will be generated. Two of my previous *FUN-Topics* articles (Error Die Variety Collecting—Pipeline to Numismatic Knowledge and Evolution of a Coin and Variety Exhibit) provide basic data applicable to error coin collecting.

The commonly accepted convenient and logical classification system for error collecting is referred to as the "PDS" system.

"P" represents "Planchet" and all errors in the minting process relating to the planchet. "D" represents the dies. This includes all aspects of the die manufacture and use in the presses of the coining process. "S" represents striking errors of all kinds. This includes all malfunctions of the coin presses, which would produce incorrectly formed coins.

Collecting error coins—especially Lincoln cents because they are the most abundant—is limited only

Continued next page...

Gem MS-66 1909-S V.D.B. 1¢

82 **1909-S V.D.B. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** A simply magnificent blazing red gem, and one of the very nicest specimens extant of this classic delicacy. Although PCGS has certified more than 1,000 Uncirculated submissions of 1909-S V.D.B. cents, only 23 red examples have been graded as MS-66, with just one finer. A prize for the numismatist who appreciates superb quality. 2420

This gem 1909S VDB was sold at auction in a 1986 sale at $2420. A similar piece graded MS66Red PCGS sold at FUN'98 for $3680. Might even be the same coin.

by the imagination and resources of the individual collectors.

The types of errors would be too numerous to list and categorize in this article. The references listed at the end of this article, plus the support groups also listed, provide an excellent method for getting started in this specialty. This collecting specialty is not like filling holes in books and folders as it requires a depth of knowledge of the "PDS" system and the minting process to know what you are collecting and searching for in errors.

One example of error collecting illustrates how this specialty can really catch on with the collecting public.

In the mid 50s and 60s, a great fad in Lincoln cent error collecting was the "BIE" variety. What is a "BIE" variety? It is a small die break of die chip occurring between the letters of LIBERTY on the Lincoln cent.

BIE die break, clogged lower R.

The apparent cause of the die breaks was excessive pressure on the dies. Literally hundreds of dies broke, especially between the "B" and "E" of LIBERTY, causing the resulting die break to look like the letter "I"—hence the name "BIE." Would you believe interest in this minor die break was so prevalent in the mid-60s that an organization in excess of 1000 members was founded and functional for a period of time? As quickly as the BIE Guild grew in the mid-60s, it suddenly disappeared and it is now nonexistent.

A BIE handbook edited and promoted by Howard O. Hardy and issued by the BIE Guild listed some 1800 dies with breaks or, in a limited number of cases, die groups or die cracks.

This example is cited to indicate that one never knows that collecting specialty will attract the attention of the collecting fraternity.

A recent phenomenon similar to the BIE syndrome (although not quite as dramatic), is the interest in "cherry picking" for rare die varieties. With the publication of the *Cherry Picker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties*, by Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton, suddenly, it has many collector specialists looking for undiscovered treasures in everyone's junk box. I have noted the effect of this publication on members at our Central Florida Coin Club meetings. Numerous formerly dormant members and collectors are suddenly having personal 'show and tells' at the meetings as they display and discuss their latest discoveries and conquests. The *Cherry Picker's Guide* lists rare die varieties for all coin denominations and type series, including a nice group of Lincoln cent double dies, RPMs and OMMs.

Thus, one never really knows what collecting specialty will catch on next. That is why collecting acquiring the numismatic habit. A multitude of collecting specialties are briefly overviewed in this article. Pick your specialty and 'run with it' and you are guaranteed many hours of numismatic pleasure. Hopefully, the long term return may also include some investment potential.

Support Groups

The following support groups are available to bring similar collecting specialists together for the exchange of data and inventories. The Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors is directly applicable to all facets of Lincoln cent collecting. The other support groups are collecting specialty areas in which Lincoln cents are also involved, in addition to other denominations and date series.

- Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA), Xan Chamberlain, P.O. Box 915, Palo Alto, CA 94302.
- Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors, Dr. Sol Taylor, President, P.O. Box 5465, N. Hollywood, CA 91616-5465. (Dues $15/yr., bimonthly newsletter. Prime objective is dedication to the collecting of the Lincoln cent.
- *Error Trends Coin Magazine* (ECTM), Arnold Margolis, P.O. Box 158, Oceanside, NY 11572-0158. (Although not a support group, an excellent monthly publication devoted to error collecting and listing of prices on error type.)

Reference Literature

I wish to express sincere appreciation to the authors and publishers of data resources used in the preparation of this article. Once again, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the ANA Resource Center for making available the majority of reference data utilized in this article. All it took was one telephone call to ANA's toll free listing (1-800-367-9723), a listing of the books I desired and lo and behold, they were delivered to me that following week.

I also want to thank the Central Florida Coin Club for the library books used, Librarian Tom Stott for providing me additional reference sources and his insight on the double die, RPM and OMM specialty collecting of Lincoln cents.

List of References

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- *The Cherry Pickers Guide to Rare Die Varieties, 2nd Edition.* Bill Fivaz, NLG and J. T. Stanton
- *Official Identification and Price Guide to Minting Varieties and Errors.* Alan Herbert, NLG
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